

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 081710Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0469
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, LE
SUBJECT: ITALIAN POLICY IN REGARD TO LEBANON

1. IN RESPONSE TO A GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATIONS,
ALL FROM MEMBERS OF LEFT WING PARTIES, FOREIGN MINISTER FOR-
LANI TOLD THE SENATE ON OCTOBER 5 THAT ITALY HAS BEEN WORKING
HARD TO ASSIST IN A SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON.

2. AMONG THE MEASURES CITED:

A) FORLANI HIMSELF HAD RECENTLY EXPRESSED ITALIAN CONCERN
OVER LEBANON TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IN NEW YORK, STRESSING
THE NEED TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE KEY ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE
RENDERED THE LEBANESE CRISIS "INEXPLICABLE" SO FAR;

B) ITALY HAS SUPPORTED VARIOUS INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF CON-
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CILIATION, PARTICULARLY THAT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE. ITALY HAS

INTENSIFIED ITS DIALOGUE WITH SYRIA IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT "A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION FROM DAMASCUS";

C) THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED IN ALL FORA ON THE NEED "TO WORK FOR EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF ARAB-PALESTINIAN STATE" IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST;

D) ITALY IS AWARE OF THE ROLE OF THE PLO AS "A POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHOSE CONTRIBUTION" IS VITAL TO A SOLUTION OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT. THAT JUDGMENT LED ITALY SOME TIME BACK TO CONDUCT REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE PLO.

3. COMMENT: THE GOI HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE PARLIAMEN- TARY AND PUBLIC PRESSURE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS DOING SOMETHING ABOUT LEBANON. THE MOVING FORCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE PCI, HAVE NOT TRIED TO CONCEAL THEIR UNALLOYED SYMPATHY WITH THE LEBANESE LEFT, MEANING THE PALESTINIANS. NO SUCH EFFORT SURFACED IN REGARD TO THE LEBANESE PARTIES. WHEN FORLANI WENT TO HIS CUPBOARD FOR ARGUMENTS TO CARRY INTO THE SENATE, HE FOUND IT NEAR BARE. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, THE GOI RECOGNIZES THAT THE LEBANESE CONTEST IS MARGINAL TO ITALY'S INTERESTS, AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE SHE CAN DO INDEPENDENTLY SINCE SHE CARRIES NO WEIGHT IN THE LEBANESE EQUATION. SHE IS THEREFORE RESTRICTED TO PARTICIPATING IN INITIATIVES FROM MULTILATERAL FORA, PARTICULARLY THE EC-9, AND TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADMONITIONS THAT THE LEBANESE SHOULD TALK, NOT FIGHT. VOLPE

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